रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया) : (क) रावघाट के रास्ते ढल्ली-राजहरा से जगदलपुर तक एक बड़ी रेल लाइन के लिए सर्वेक्षण किया गया है। 235 कि० मी० लम्बी लाइन के निर्माण की अनुमानित लागत 218 करोड़ रुपये है।

(ख) जी हां।

(ग) सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, ढल्ली-राजहरा खदानों से दोहन किये जा रहे लौह अयस्क के अतिरिक्त, 1994-95 से भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र के 4 मिलियन टन के स्तर के लिए 3.05 मिलियन टन अतिरिक्त लौह अयस्क की आवश्यकता होगी। बेलाडिला खदानों अथवा विकल्पतः प्रस्तावित रावघाट खदानों से लौह अयस्क की बढ़ी हुई मांग को पूरा करने का प्रस्ताव है।

Survey on inland waterway Transport potential between Kakinada and Madras

908. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rail India Technical and Economic Services, which has been investigating the inland waterway transport potential between Kakinada and Madras, has completed its work on the Kakinada-Dowlaiswaram Canal;

(6) if so, whether it has found the segment strong enough to transport a number of goods, easing the pressure on railways and roadways;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to transport goods through this inland waterway; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to strengthen waterways in the other segments between Kakinada and Madras, on a large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The responsibility for development of inland waterways other than National Waterways rests with the State Govts. However, the Central Government is extending loan assistance to the State Governments for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for improvement of waterways. Under this, a scheme relating to improvement of North Buckingham Canal in Tamil Nadu costing Rs. 2 crores has already been sanctioned. A Scheme for integrated development of four canals falling in the territory of Andhra Pradesh has also been recently formulated by the State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

Handing over of Akbar Hotel to private Sector

909. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the circumstances which necessitated handing over of the Akbar Hotel to the private sector; and

(b) what has been the result of attempts made by the Indian Tourism Development Corporation to recover this property for use of the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The erstwhile Akbar Hotel has not been handed over to the Private Sector.

(b) The Akbar Hotal building was handed over to the Ministry of External Affairs in April 1986 for use as office space. A request was made to them for transfer of the building back to ITDC for operating it as a hotel. But this request has not been agreed to.

Delhi-Visakhapatnam air services

910. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a direct air service between Delhi and Visakhapatnam is in the offing;